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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/583,930	06/20/2006	Toshiyuki Ikeda	4386.75303	4840

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EXAMINER	
JOHNSTONE, ADRIENNE C	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1791	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/583,930	IKEDA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Adrienne C. Johnstone	1791	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *1* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *20 June 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-8* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☒ Claim(s) *1-8* are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

a) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is one tube connected to the inner surface of the tread portion of the tire according to Figure 11;

b) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is one tube formed on the outer surface of the wheel well according to Figure 13;

c) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is one tube extending circumferentially inside the rim and opening to the wheel well according to Figure 14;

d) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is one tube extending radially of the rim and folding back to open to the wheel well according to Figure 15;

e) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two tubes whose opening portions are situated in one arbitrary location on a circumference arranged according to Figure 6 with one of the tubes connected to the inner surface of the tread portion of the tire according to Figure 11 and the other of the tubes formed on the outer surface of the wheel well according to Figure 13;

f) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two tubes whose opening portions are situated in one arbitrary location on a circumference arranged according to Figure 6 with one of the tubes connected to the inner surface of the tread portion of the tire according to Figure 11 and

the other of the tubes extending circumferentially inside the rim and opening to the wheel well according to Figure 14;

g) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two tubes whose opening portions are situated in one arbitrary location on a circumference arranged according to Figure 6 with one of the tubes connected to the inner surface of the tread portion of the tire according to Figure 11 and the other of the tubes extending radially of the rim and folding back to open to the wheel well according to Figure 15;

h) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two tubes whose opening portions are situated in one arbitrary location on a circumference arranged according to Figure 6 with one of the tubes formed on the outer surface of the wheel well according to Figure 13 and the other of the tubes extending circumferentially inside the rim and opening to the wheel well according to Figure 14;

i) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two tubes whose opening portions are situated in one arbitrary location on a circumference arranged according to Figure 6 with one of the tubes formed on the outer surface of the wheel well according to Figure 13 and the other of the tubes extending radially of the rim and folding back to open to the wheel well according to Figure 15;

j) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two tubes whose opening portions are situated in one arbitrary location on a circumference arranged according to Figure 6 with one tube formed on the inner surface of each of two bead portions of the tire according to Figure 12;

k) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two tubes whose opening portions are situated in two locations facing each other across the rotational axis of the tire arranged

according to Figure 1 with the tubes connected to the inner surface of the tread portion of the tire according to Figure 11;

l) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two tubes whose opening portions are situated in two locations facing each other across the rotational axis of the tire arranged according to Figure 1 with one tube formed on the inner surface of each of two bead portions of the tire according to Figure 12;

m) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two tubes whose opening portions are situated in two locations facing each other across the rotational axis of the tire arranged according to Figure 1 and formed on the outer surface of the wheel well according to Figure 13;

n) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two tubes whose opening portions are situated in two locations facing each other across the rotational axis of the tire arranged according to Figure 1 and extending circumferentially inside the rim and opening to the wheel well according to Figure 14;

o) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two tubes whose opening portions are situated in two locations facing each other across the rotational axis of the tire arranged according to Figure 1 and extending radially of the rim and folding back to open to the wheel well according to Figure 15;

p) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two pairs of tubes whose opening portions are situated in two locations facing each other across the rotational axis of the tire with each pair's opening portions situated in one arbitrary location on a circumference arranged according to Figure 7 with each pair having one of the tubes connected to the inner surface of the tread portion of the tire according to Figure 11 and the other of the tubes formed on the outer surface of the wheel well according to Figure 13;

q) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two pairs of tubes whose opening portions are situated in two locations facing each other across the rotational axis of the tire with each pair's opening portions situated in one arbitrary location on a circumference arranged according to Figure 7 with each pair having one of the tubes formed on the inner surface of a bead portion of the tire according to Figure 12 and the other of the tubes formed on the outer surface of the wheel well according to Figure 13;

r) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two pairs of tubes whose opening portions are situated in two locations facing each other across the rotational axis of the tire with each pair's opening portions situated in one arbitrary location on a circumference arranged according to Figure 7 with each pair having one of the tubes connected to the inner surface of the tread portion of the tire according to Figure 11 and the other of the tubes extending circumferentially inside the rim and opening to the wheel well according to Figure 14;

s) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two pairs of tubes whose opening portions are situated in two locations facing each other across the rotational axis of the tire with each pair's opening portions situated in one arbitrary location on a circumference arranged according to Figure 7 with each pair having one of the tubes formed on the inner surface of a bead portion of the tire according to Figure 12 and the other of the tubes extending circumferentially inside the rim and opening to the wheel well according to Figure 14;

t) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two pairs of tubes whose opening portions are situated in two locations facing each other across the rotational axis of the tire with each pair's opening portions situated in one arbitrary location on a circumference arranged according to Figure 7 with each pair having one of the tubes connected to the inner surface of the

tread portion of the tire according to Figure 11 and the other of the tubes extending radially of the rim and folding back to open to the wheel well according to Figure 15;

u) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two pairs of tubes whose opening portions are situated in two locations facing each other across the rotational axis of the tire with each pair's opening portions situated in one arbitrary location on a circumference arranged according to Figure 7 with each pair having one of the tubes formed on the inner surface of a bead portion of the tire according to Figure 12 and the other of the tubes extending radially of the rim and folding back to open to the wheel well according to Figure 15;

v) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two pairs of tubes whose opening portions are situated in two locations facing each other across the rotational axis of the tire with each pair's opening portions situated in one arbitrary location on a circumference arranged according to Figure 7 with each pair having one of the tubes formed on the outer surface of the wheel well according to Figure 13 and the other of the tubes extending circumferentially inside the rim and opening to the wheel well according to Figure 14;

w) a tire/wheel assembly wherein the at least one tube is two pairs of tubes whose opening portions are situated in two locations facing each other across the rotational axis of the tire with each pair's opening portions situated in one arbitrary location on a circumference arranged according to Figure 7 with each pair having one of the tubes formed on the outer surface of the wheel well according to Figure 13 and the other of the tubes extending radially of the rim and folding back to open to the wheel well according to Figure 15.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a

claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

2. The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

a) claims 1, 4-7/1

b) claims 1, 4-6/1, 8/1

c) claims 1, 4-6/1, 8/1

d) claims 1, 4-6/1, 8/1

e) claims 1-8

f) claims 1-8

g) claims 1-8

h) claims 1-6 and 8

i) claims 1-6 and 8

j) claims 1-7

k) claims 1-7

l) claims 1-7

m) claims 1-6 and 8

n) claims 1-6 and 8

o) claims 1-6 and 8

p) claims 1-8

q) claims 1-8

r) claims 1-8

s) claims 1-8

t) claims 1-8

u) claims 1-8

v) claims 1-6 and 8

w) claims 1-6 and 8.

The following claim(s) are generic: claim 1.

3. The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: generic claim 1 does not distinguish over the prior art, as evidenced by Svedhem (6,309,026 B1) cited by applicants for example, and therefore cannot serve as a special technical feature.

4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any

amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adrienne C. Johnstone whose telephone number is (571) 272-1218. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 1:00PM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Adrienne C. Johnstone
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1791

Adrienne Johnstone /Adrienne C. Johnstone/

May 29, 2009